



SC Annual School Report Card Summary

Great Falls Elementary

Chester

Grades: PK-5

Enrollment: 452

Principal: Jerry Digh

Superintendent: Mr. Larry Heath

Board Chair: Denise Lawson

PERFORMANCE

Comprehensive detail, including definitions of ratings, performance criteria, and explanations of status, is available on www.ed.sc.gov and www.eoc.sc.gov as well as school and school district websites. Printed versions are available from school districts upon request.

YEAR	ABSOLUTE RATING	GROWTH RATING	PALMETTO GOLD/SILVER AWARD	AYP STATUS	NCLB IMPROVEMENT STATUS
2008	Below Average	Below Average	TBD	Not Met	RP
2007	Below Average	Below Average	N/A	Not Met	CA
2006	Below Average	Average	N/A	Met	CSI-DELAY

ABSOLUTE RATINGS OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS WITH STUDENTS LIKE OURS*

EXCELLENT

0

GOOD

4

AVERAGE

47

BELOW AVERAGE

36

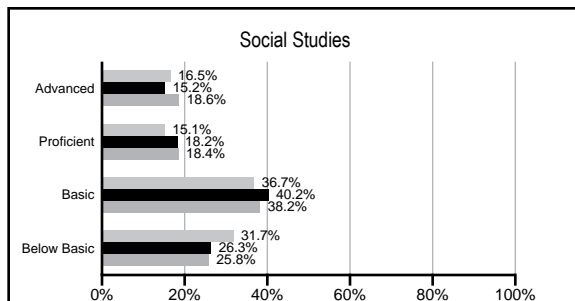
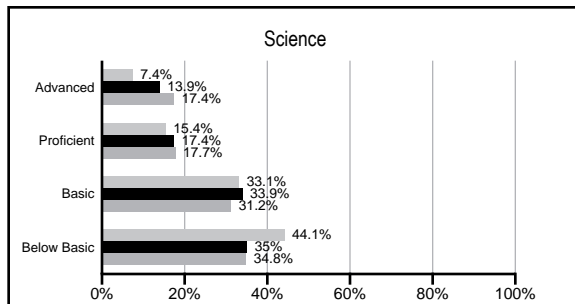
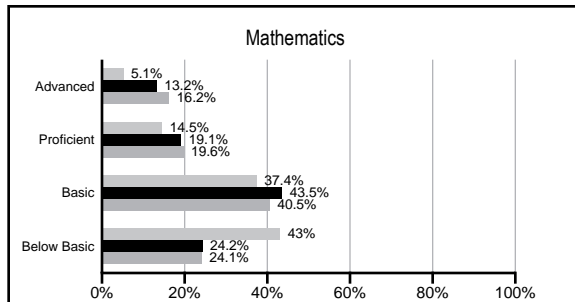
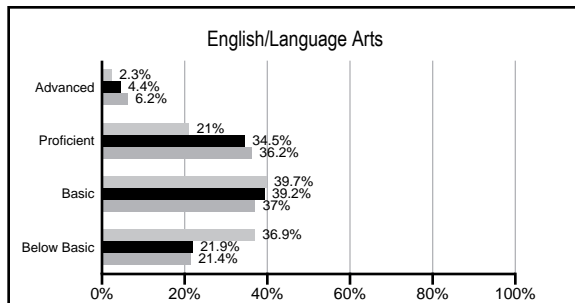
AT-RISK

1

* Ratings are calculated with data available by 02/17/2009. Schools with Students like Ours are Elementary Schools with poverty indices of no more than 5% above or below the index for this school.

PACT PERFORMANCE

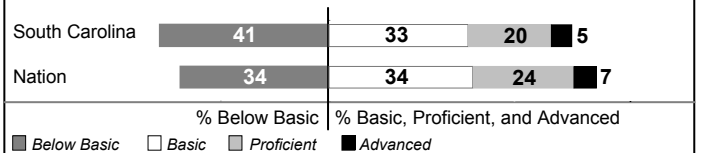
Our School Elementary Schools with Students Like Ours Elementary schools statewide



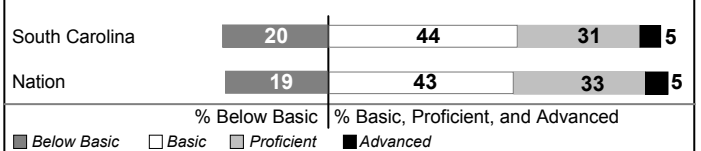
NAEP PERFORMANCE*

* Performance reported for SC and nation, data not available at school level. Percentages at NAEP Achievement Levels.

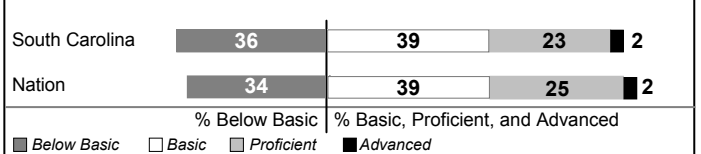
READING – GRADE 4 (2007)



MATH – GRADE 4 (2007)



SCIENCE – GRADE 4 (2005)



SC PERFORMANCE GOAL

2010 Goal:

By 2010, SC's student achievement will be ranked in the top half of the states nationally. To achieve this goal, we must become one of the fastest improving systems in the country.

2020 Goal: TBD

Abbreviations Key

N/A Not Applicable N/AV Not Available N/C Not Collected N/R Not Reported I/S Insufficient Sample TBD To be determined
NI Newly Identified CSI Continuing School Improvement CA Corrective Action RP Plan to Restructure R Restructure DELAY School Improvement Status HOLD School Improvement Status

Great Falls Elementary [Chester]

SCHOOL PROFILE

	Our School	Change from Last Year	Elementary Schools with Students Like Ours	Median Elementary School
Students (n=452)				
Retention rate	5.3%	Up from 4.1%	2.9%	2.3%
Attendance rate	95.2%	Down from 95.3%	96.1%	96.3%
Eligible for gifted and talented	10.4%	Up from 8.5%	9.3%	10.4%
With disabilities other than speech	11.2%	Up from 10.5%	8.9%	7.5%
Out-of-school suspensions or expulsions for violent &/or criminal offenses	0.2%	Down from 6.8%	0.0%	0.0%
Teachers (n=33)				
Teachers with advanced degrees	66.7%	Down from 70.4%	57.6%	56.7%
Continuing contract teachers	78.8%	Down from 92.6%	80.0%	77.3%
Teachers with emergency or provisional certificates	0.0%	No Change	0.0%	0.0%
Teachers returning from previous year	85.8%	Down from 86.6%	86.7%	86.4%
Teacher attendance rate	94.5%	Up from 90.1%	94.7%	94.9%
Average teacher salary	\$49,886	Up 4.9%	\$45,421	\$45,345
Classes not taught by highly qualified teachers	0.0%	No Change	0.0%	0.0%
School				
Principal's years at school	4.0	Up from 3.0	4.0	4.0
Student-teacher ratio in core subjects	18.4 to 1	Down from 19.3 to 1	18.5 to 1	18.5 to 1
Prime instructional time	87.0%	Up from 82.7%	89.3%	89.8%
Opportunities in the arts	Good	No Change	Good	Good
SACS accreditation	Yes	No Change	Yes	Yes
Character development program	Good	Down from Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Dollars spent per pupil*	\$7,676	Up 5.6%	\$6,982	\$7,052
Percent of expenditures for instruction*	68.3%	Down from 70.7%	68.6%	69.1%
Percent of expenditures for teacher salaries*	61.9%	Down from 67.5%	64.3%	64.2%
% of AYP objectives met	52.4%		86.2%	85.7%

* Prior year audited financial data available.

EVALUATION RESULTS

	Teachers	Students*	Parents*
Number of surveys returned	33	74	59
Percent satisfied with learning environment	93.8%	86.5%	86.2%
Percent satisfied with social and physical environment	96.9%	76.7%	84.2%
Percent satisfied with school-home relations	87.1%	89.0%	72.9%

*Only students at the highest elementary school grade level at this school and their parents were included.

REPORT OF PRINCIPAL AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL

If you have not been to Great Falls Elementary School lately, you have not seen the improvements we are making both technologically and strategically! As a school, we must close the achievement gap where challenges exist in subgroups of Free/Reduced students, as well as African-American students in both English/language arts and mathematics in order to achieve Adequately Yearly Progress as defined by No Child Left Behind legislation. Incorporating technology where applicable and possible is one way we strive to achieve these goals, as well as to motivate students and to prepare them for a technology-rich future.

Great Falls Elementary School installed an additional 12 Promethean Boards this year, bringing the total number to 16, utilizing district technology funds, Title I School Improvement funds, and funding from Springs Global. Teachers in grades 2-5 also have at their fingertips the Descartes Learning Continuum, a complete curriculum that is individualized to students' needs based on MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) assessments, which students take periodically throughout the year. The school also has over 30 wireless laptop computers that can be checked out for classrooms to do research or publish written works.

Great Falls Elementary continues to employ an excellent staff of dedicated, lifelong learners, who remain current with best practices in teaching and will utilize their expertise to become more active as "teachers of teachers" within the school this coming year. Currently, Great Falls Elementary has 7 teachers who are National Board Certified. Professional development opportunities for the upcoming year include: providing parenting workshops, brain-based educational practices, gender-appropriate teaching, and implementing new teaching strategies in reading. Teachers continue to seek and receive grants to purchase new materials to utilize in their classrooms. This year, Great Falls Elementary led all schools in the Lancaster, Great Falls, and Richburg areas with 23 Pet grants awarded by the J. Marion Sims Foundation.

While focusing on academics, Great Falls Elementary believes in educating the whole child and will provide additional opportunities in the arts.

Mr. Jerry Digh, Principal
Mrs. Tonya Weir, Chair, School Improvement Council/Title I Parent Involvement Committee

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